

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A head for use with a toothbrush, comprising:
an outer perimeter portion formed of a rigid material, said rigid material being adapted to allow said head to be sonically welded; and
a tuft field positioned within said outer perimeter portion and being formed of a flexible elastomer, said tuft field defining one or more apertures to receive one or more bristle tufts, said head being adapted to be sonically welded into place in said toothbrush a toothbrush.
2. (Original) The head of claim 1, wherein said rigid material comprises polypropylene.
3. (Original) The head of claim 1, wherein said flexible elastomer has a hardness of 90 shore A or less.
4. (Original) The head of claim 1, wherein during normal brushing conditions both said tuft field and said one or more bristle tufts move.
5. (Original) The head of claim 1, wherein during normal brushing conditions said tuft field flexes.
6. (Original) The head of claim 1, wherein said tuft field flexes upon the application of pressure thereto.
7. (Original) The head of claim 1, wherein said one or more bristle tufts are secured within each corresponding aperture in said tuft field by melting a portion of the bristles forming each of said bristle tufts.

8. (Original) The head of claim 7, wherein said bristle tufts are melted adjacent a back surface of said tuft field that is to be positioned facing said toothbrush.

9. (Withdrawn) A method for forming a head for use with a toothbrush, comprising the steps of:

forming an outer perimeter portion of a rigid material, said rigid material being adapted to allow said head to be sonically welded; and

positioning a tuft field within said outer perimeter portion, said tuft field being formed of a flexible elastomer, said tuft field defining one or more apertures to receive one or more bristle tufts;

placing a bristle tuft within at least one corresponding aperture in said tuft field;

melting a portion of bristles in said bristle tuft to secure said bristle tuft in said aperture in said tuft field; and

sonically welding said tuft field into place in said toothbrush.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein said rigid material comprises polypropylene.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein said flexible elastomer has a hardness of 90 shore A or less.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein during normal brushing conditions both said tuft field and said one or more bristle tufts move.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein during normal brushing conditions said tuft field flexes.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein during normal brushing conditions said tuft field flexes.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of securing said one or more bristle tufts within each corresponding aperture in said tuft field by melting a portion of the bristles forming each of said bristle tufts.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said bristle tufts are melted adjacent a back surface of said tuft field that is to be positioned facing said toothbrush.